

The Alexandria Gazette

WEDNESDAY EVENING, SEPT'R 10.

THE RIVER.—As far as the number of steam-boats and sailing vessels on the river is concerned, Alexandria has never presented such a show of craft in and about the harbor. And, with intervals, this has been the case for months past. It is a commerce, however, if commerce it may be called, which brings no business to the merchant, opens no warehouses, except those used for government stores, and makes no regular trade and traffic along the wharves. There is hurry, and bustle, and landing of stores, and troops, and horses—but beyond this nothing, even like it was in former days, when we Alexandrians thought the river front was dull enough.

We had by this morning's exchange papers, but little news concerning the movements of the armies on the Upper Potomac, but an abundance of conjecture, speculation, and surmise. The intentions of the Confederates do not appear to be known, nor is the strength of the Confederate force in Maryland reliably ascertained.

It is stated that Gen. McClellan is opposed to the restrictions that have been placed on the press—but we do not know on what authority the statement is made.

Galloping horses through the streets, and reckless driving, are strictly prohibited by the Provost Guard in Washington. A soldier galloping through the streets here, yesterday, came near running over and killing two children.

The Defences of Washington.

We understand that Gen. Fitz John Porter, having command, under Gen. Banks, of the forts and forces on the south side of the Potomac, made on Monday a thorough examination of all of those works, twenty-three in number and found them in perfect order, in the best condition of defence, well armed and fully manned. Gen. Banks' headquarters are established at the corner of Madison Place and Pennsylvania avenue. The following is a copy of his first general order, on assuming the command.—*Nat. Int.*

HEADQ'R'S. DEFENCE OF WASHINGTON, }
September 6, 1862. }

First. In compliance with paragraph seven of Special Orders, No. 4, of the 7th instant, from the headquarters of Major General McClellan, the undersigned hereby assumes the immediate command of the defences of the capital during the absence of the General Commanding from Washington.

Second. Commanders of troops in and near the defences of Washington will send to these headquarters, by twelve to-morrow, consolidated morning reports of their respective commands, and lists showing the regiments and batteries, composing the same, with their stations.

Third. With the permission of Major General McClellan, Captain Richard B. Irwin, Aide-de-Camp to the General Commanding, will act as Assistant Adjutant General of this command. N. P. BANKS, Major General.

A troop train on the Ohio and Mississippi Railroad was thrown from the track on Monday night by opening a switch, and five soldiers killed and thirty wounded. The party accused of opening the switch has been arrested.

THE WAR IN THE WEST.

A dispatch from Cincinnati states that Gen. Wallace has assumed command on the south side of the river, and Gen. Burban on the north side. Martial law has been somewhat relaxed in the city, the stores being opened on Monday. The Confederates are reported to be at Crittenden, in Grant county, twenty-five miles from Covington. If this statement is correct, they advanced from Williamstown, twenty miles distant since last report. It was rumored that a Confederate force had marched on Maysville from Falmouth, and that the city had surrendered. The report needs confirmation. At Cumberland Gap, on Thursday last, a skirmish occurred, in which the Confederates were defeated with some loss. The casualties on the Federal side were only one killed and three wounded. It was rumored in Louisville on yesterday that Gen. Crittenden had defeated a portion of Gen. Bragg's force near Gallatin, Tenn., and also that Gen. Bragg's entire army was crossing the Cumberland river, with the intention of invading Northern Kentucky.

A dispatch dated Bridgeport, Tenn., August 21, states that a Confederate brigade attacked the Federal fortifications at Stephenson on that day, and after four hours' fighting the Federal troops evacuated the works and escaped to Nashville. A large amount of stores and ammunition is said to have been captured.—Another dispatch states that the Federal troops have again occupied McMinnville, supposed to be part of the army retreating to Nashville.—The dispatch also states that Tennessee will soon be entirely in the hands of the Confederates.

On the 3d instant a Federal steamer, while aground in the Tennessee river, was captured by the Confederates. The guns were removed and the vessel burned. Seventeen prisoners were taken and paroled.

A dispatch from Memphis reports that a large number of Texas troops have arrived at Little Rock, Arkansas, within the last few days. It was also reported that Gen. Rosencrans had made an attack on Tupello, Miss., but was repulsed.

Contrabands at Cairo, Ill.

CAIRO, August 29.—To E. M. Stanton, Secretary of War, Washington, D. C.: A large lot of negroes arrived this morning from Gen. Curtis' army, mostly women and children.—I have now at this place over 800 women and children. What shall I do with them? They will starve if not fed. J. M. TUTTLE, Brig. Gen. Commanding District of Cairo.

WASHINGTON, August 29.—To Brigadier Gen. Tuttle: It is your duty, and you are directed to issue from the quartermaster and commissary stores the necessary supplies for the negroes mentioned in your telegram, and put to work such as are capable of service.—You will direct a special account to be kept of the supplies issued and the labor done. E. M. STANTON Secretary of War.

A riot took place in New London, Connecticut, on Thursday evening. A body of soldiers from Fort Trumbull, armed with sabres, pistols, clubs and other weapons, marched through the streets of the city, and attacked a negro dance-house kept by Matthias Lopez, a Portuguese. Shots were fired by the mob and from the house, and one soldier of the Fourteenth United States Infantry was shot in the arm, but not seriously wounded. The house was completely gutted and its contents destroyed.

LOCAL.—Swarms of mosquitoes invade some portions of the town, "making night hideous with their annoying hum, to say nothing of their sting.—There are now in the U. S. Hospitals in this place 1,764 wounded soldiers; there have been, comparatively, but few deaths, and, generally, the cases are improving.—Great complaints are made of the robberies in different parts of the town, especially of the constant thieving going on in the Market house; some steps ought to be taken to punish offenders.—The town is full of "contrabands," some of whom have stolen boats along the shores of the Potomac and brought them up here; many of them are in destitute circumstances; 750 are reported as being under the care of the U. S. Government officers, besides others roving about or hired out.—There is an encampment of recruits for the proposed new regiment of U. S. Volunteers for Virginia at the lower end of the town, near Hunting Creek.—It is said that at the U. S. bakery, foot of King street, in this place, eighty-four hands are employed, and forty thousand loaves of bread turned out every day.—A soldier was most unmercifully beaten by a negro man yesterday evening, near the corner of Queen and St. Asaph streets: the injuries to the soldier are very serious and may prove fatal: the negro made his escape.

There has been no communication between Harper's Ferry and Baltimore since Thursday, either railroad or telegraphic. Communication from the Ferry to Wheeling remains unbroken.

A Dispatch from Cincinnati on the 9th says that all is quiet there; the Confederates are within twenty miles of that place.

Gen. McClellan passed through Rockville on Sunday night, halting there a short time to rest and refresh himself and horses.

The Liverpool Post draws attention to Secretary Seward's late circular to encourage emigrants, and urges the distressed operatives of Lancashire and the Irish poor to follow Mr. Seward's advice and emigrate.

The London Times reiterates its arguments that the North cannot conquer the South, and says that the time for compromise of some kind has arrived, and that the worst settlement of the dispute cannot be so fatal as the continuance of the war.

A general disgust is inspired by the presence of the officers now in Washington (says the Times) whose duty it is to be with their commands. Willard's and the National have been overflowing; and the dining-rooms resounded with champagne artillery and ill-timed hilarity.

It is ascertained that recruits enlisted to fill up the old regiments desert while on their way to the Capital, thus cheating their States and the U. S. out of large bounties paid in advance.

The provisional army movement on foot, it is understood, has neither the countenance nor approval of the military authorities in Washington or the government, and is made without any conference with the governors of all the loyal States.

The greatest excitement existed on Monday evening throughout York and Adams county, Pennsylvania, as well as at Harrisburg and throughout the Susquehanna region and the Cleveland Valley. Troops were rapidly concentrating. The farmers were sending their women and children as well as their cattle away, and were arming. At Harrisburg there was assembled a large force.